

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Review Item:**

Continued Expansion of Schools Participating in AdvanceKentucky

#### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 158.007, KRS 158.622, KRS 158.847, KRS 158.848, KRS 158.849, 704 KAR 3:510

#### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** In the summer of 2007, the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) awarded Kentucky \$13.2 million as one of six states to create nonprofit enterprises for expanding participation and success in Advanced Placement\* courses in Mathematics, Science and English. NMSI is a national non-profit organization funded by ExxonMobil, Dell and the Gates Foundation. The Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC) agreed to be the nonprofit assuming responsibility for creating and operating the program, called AdvanceKentucky, to implement Kentucky's grant. Joanne Lang, Executive Vice President of KSTC, heads AdvanceKentucky. The Kentucky Department of Education is a partner, along with support from the Council on Postsecondary Education, two grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission, Lockheed Corporation, and Kentucky Downs. Local funding supports many of the participating schools to implement selected elements of the program.

AdvanceKentucky is a key strategy in the Kentucky Department of Education's College and Career Readiness Delivery Plan. Currently, AdvanceKentucky is working in 64 Kentucky schools using the NMSI Elements of Success, involving 15,000 enrollments, 450 AP teachers and 1,000 trained pre-AP teachers. This proven model encourages more students to take AP classes, more time spent on content learning for students through weekend or after school study sessions, extensive AP and Pre-AP teacher training, and rewarding students, teachers and administrators for success on AP math, science and English exams. At the April 2012 Kentucky Board of Education meeting up to twenty (20) new schools will be named. Participation is voluntary based on an application process.

#### ***Expansion Goals, Premise and Results to Date***

AdvanceKentucky's goal is to achieve inclusion of 50 percent of Kentucky's public high schools in the program by 2014 and to serve the balance of interested high schools by 2018. In order to meet this goal, expansion of AdvanceKentucky is part of Kentucky's Race to the Top Phase 3 grant.

*\* Advanced Placement Program, AP, and Pre-AP are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board, which was not involved in the production of this product.*

Transformational progress requires breaking the cycle of underachievement and lack of academic confidence that has too often been exhibited in Kentucky's schools. AdvanceKentucky is a proven program that repeatedly demonstrates that Kentucky students are capable of performing at much higher levels of academic rigor, if provided an integrated support system.<sup>i</sup> For example, AdvanceKentucky contributed 83 percent of the net new Advanced Placement (AP) qualifying scores (QS) in math, science and English (MSE) earned on the most recent 2011 AP exams taken across Kentucky. However, at the time participating high schools represented only 22 percent of high school juniors and seniors statewide. Moreover, annual increases in numbers of AP math, science and English qualifying scores have ranged from five to 12 times the national rates. For the second consecutive year, AdvanceKentucky's impact on AP scores earned by minority students has allowed Kentucky to surpass the national rate on related performance metrics.

At its core AdvanceKentucky measures success in terms of numbers of qualifying scores on the rigorous, national AP math, science and English exams. This involves outreach in an open enrollment environment to identify and recruit qualified students into AP math, science and English classes. This means schools must reach out and "invite" rather than "filter out" more students who traditionally are underrepresented in AP classes, but show promise on various measures. This especially requires more well-trained teachers available to teach both AP and Pre-AP MSE classes in this diverse and challenging environment necessary to achieve game-changing progress.<sup>ii</sup>

- After three years in AdvanceKY, **Cohort 1** (12 schools) realized a *three-year* increase of **199%** in AP math, science and English qualifying scores (includes **775%** increase in minority and **500%** increase in low income).
- After two years in AdvanceKY, **Cohort 2** (16 schools) realized a *two-year* increase of **110%** in AP math, science and English qualifying scores (includes **275%** increase in minority and **343%** increase in low income).
- After one year in AdvanceKY, **Cohort 3** (16 schools) realized a *one-year* increase of **144%** in AP math, science and English qualifying scores (includes **600%** increase in minority and **173%** increase in low income).

As a result, more students, including low income and underrepresented groups, in Kentucky are being exposed to and realizing success in college-level course curriculum, having the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school at little to no cost, and are being better prepared for success in college.

Overall, in 2011, Kentucky produced a total of 42,768 exams. That is compared to 36,463 exams last year and 22,349 in 2006. Of those, 5,728 were taken by low-income students. Likewise, Kentucky students scored 3 or higher on 20,638 exams, compared to 17,956 in 2010 and 11,477 in 2006. This shows that more students are exposed to the rigor of college-level courses in high school, helping them to be on their way to college readiness.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

Kentucky has had an increase in the number of students earning passing scores of 3 on AP exams in English, Mathematics and Science from 10,053 to 11,311 in 2011. This shows a 12.5% increase in just one year.

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Commissioner of Education

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<sup>i</sup> For a description of the AdvanceKentucky Elements of Success, a list and map of participating schools and the latest results go to [www.advanceky.com](http://www.advanceky.com)

<sup>ii</sup> Excerpt from *Kentucky Science and Innovation Strategy*, Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, Lexington, KY, January 2012